

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

January 6, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

MAP Testing Begins

January 8

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to begin practicing keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th graders are learning about petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are ancient symbols carved into rocks all over the world. We are looking at these symbols that represent a culture's beliefs and creating a clay slab box that we will carve symbols into that represent us.

Music - In the new year we will be starting a composition project which will take several weeks. This week, before we start the project, we will be reviewing our reading skills. Students may have a take home assignment to review the skills if they need the extra practice. I am still in need of some pictures of the 5th grade showcase. If anyone has pictures please email me at akaria@op97.org.

Chorus -Congratulations to all chorus members on a wonderful performance at the Oak Park Arms! We were featured in the Oak Leaves. [Click here to see the pictures](#). Our next performances will be in January. We will have an assembly with band and orchestra for students during the day on January 22nd and a performance with **Gold Belt Recorder Ensemble** at night (location/ dates TBD). Stay tuned for more information.

Spanish - ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! Students will be beginning a new story this week and changing groups as well. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - Last week, fifth graders did an excellent job showing me what they've learned this year by participating in a library scavenger hunt. Each group received a list of items to find in the library and an ipod. Like a classic "road rally" scavenger hunt, each group snapped a picture once they found what each item on the list. Students should be so proud of their library skills! The ability to find books in our library will transfer to Brooks, the Oak Park Public Library, and beyond! This week we'll talk about SPRING reading olympics (can you believe it?!). Look for permission slips on green paper. The library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org .

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

This week we will begin to revisit the Common Core Standards that we focused upon earlier in the school year. First, we will continue exploring how to compare and contrast. Students will work to understand how to apply this skill to understand the similarities and differences in characters, settings, and story events.

Writing

Students should be practicing their keyboarding skills at home. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website.

Math

This week, we turn our focus to fractions. We will begin by reviewing strategies to find equivalent fractions. Students will use an area model to find equivalent fractions and will also use multiplication and division to find equivalent fractions. We will then move on to adding fractions with unlike denominators. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering fraction addition and estimating of fraction sums and differences. The workbook for this unit is posted on the math page of the 5th Grade wiki, as are PDFs of the daily Smartboard lessons.

Science

This first week back, we'll continue our study of variables with a lab called lifeboats. Over the course of the week, students will learn about volume and capacity by creating paper cup lifeboats of varying sizes, filling them with water, and measuring the amount of water it takes to fill each one to capacity. They will then fill each lifeboat with passengers (represented by pennies) to see how many can be on the lifeboat before it sinks in a bin of water. This week we will continue to discuss with students the requirements of the Science Fair, which will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. We will work with students on planning sheets, but experiments must be conducted at home. The science section of the wiki will be updated with information throughout the process.

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Social Studies

Now that we have learned about the formation of the 13 Colonies, we will begin our study of the American Revolution. Specifically, we will be focusing on the events that led up to the Revolution. This week students will learn about the French and Indian War. They will be asked to take the perspective of Native Americans, and decide which side of the war they would have joined. They will also learn how the French and Indian War set in motion a number of events that led to the American Revolution.

Spelling/Word Study

Due to the shortened week, we will not have new Spelling Words. We will reinstate our Spelling Routine next week!

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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